

10) An information disclosure statement (IDS) and form 1449; and

11) A receipt indication postcard.

AMENDMENT

Please amend the specification and claims as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the fourth full paragraph found at page 5, lines 27-29 and substitute therefor the following new paragraph:

--The terms "NELL-1 cDNA" and "NELL-1" genomic DNA refer to the cDNA and genomic DNA as disclosed by Watanabe et al. (1996) Genomics 38 (3): 273-276; Ting et al. (1999) J Bone Mineral Res, 14: 80-89; and GenBank Accession Number U57523 (SEQ ID NO: 2).--

Please delete the third full paragraph found at page 11, lines 20-26 and substitute therefor the following new paragraph:

--Expression levels of a gene can be altered by changes in the transcription of the gene product (i.e. transcription of mRNA), and/or by changes in translation of the gene product (i.e. translation of the protein), and/or by post-translational modification(s) (e.g. protein folding, glycosylation, etc.). Thus preferred assays of this invention include assaying for level of transcribed mRNA (or other nucleic acids derived from the NELL-1 gene), level of translated protein, activity of translated protein, etc. Examples of such approaches are described below.--

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.121 a marked up version of the above-amended paragraph illustrating the changes introduced by the forgoing amendment is provided in Appendix A.

Please amend the specification to replace the 2 sheets of informal drawings with the 2 sheets of formal drawings submitted herewith.

Please amend the specification to replace the sequence listing with substitute paper copy of the sequence listing submitted herewith.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3-7 and 13-49 without prejudice.